

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Research Institutes in the Potsdam Area

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SOURCE

1. The Astrophysics Institute and Observatory, Potsdam

- a. This Institute has been under the direction of Professor Hans Kienle since 1939. In the fall of 1950, however, Kienle will accept an invitation to teach at Heidelberg where he is expected to remain. His place in Potsdam will be taken by Professor Walter Grotrian. However, from Heidelberg Kienle will continue to direct certain affairs of the Astrophysics Institute in Potsdam, particularly the construction and installation of a new reflector.
- b. Kienle was able ever since the end of the war to procure ample funds from the East German Government for the rebuilding of the Astrophysics Institute with no strings attached and was able to carry on research without interference from the East German Government or the Russians. None of this research was of a secret nature and has to a great extent been published. The chief project of the Institute was the construction of a new two-meter reflector by Zeiss in Jena which is not yet completed.
- c. Kienle is an old-line social democrat and anti-communist but has never had any political difficulties with the East German Government or with the Russians.

2. Institute for Food Research, Rehbrücke near Potsdam

- a. This Institute is under the direction of Professor Ullmann, of Baltic origin, formerly a member of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute. It is located in a former Institute for the Blind and has been in existence for about a year. Further annexes are now under construction for special research in starches and in food preservation at low temperatures. The laboratories of the Institute are reportedly equipped with the most up-to-date mechanical and chemical laboratory installations, to a great extent produced by Zeiss in Jena. Heavy equipment was purchased in Western Germany; the difference in purchasing power of the East and West-Mark was made up by government subsidy.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- b. The Institute, employing about 150 persons, is not under any control in its research program and does not report to the government or the Russians on its progress. Its major research is carried on in the following fields:

oils and oxydation of oils
vitanins
starches (fractional processes involving
aluminum oxides)

3. Institute for Fiber Research, Teltow

- a. This Institute is likewise under the direction of Professor Ullmann. Its main research is concerned with Perlon (nylon). It now contains the following apparatus procured since the end of the war in West Germany:

one electron microscope, purchased from Siemens for 40,000 DM

one ultra-centrifuge, purchased from the HETE, A.G., Gottingen

one ultra-sonic generator

- b. At the end of the war, Ullmann was dismissed from the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute by Professor Havemann, outspoken communist, who became one of the chief advisors to the East German Government in scientific affairs. Because of Ullmann's excellence as a scientist and his knowledge of Russian, however, he was found to be indispensable and was later made director of the two Institutes above. Ullmann is a convinced anti-communist and reportedly remains in Potsdam only because he believes that a nucleus of anti-communist scientists in Eastern Germany may some day make itself useful in bringing about the liberation of this area from the communists.

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